

here to share this time with MIKE and the family.

I have strict instructions from MIKE to keep this brief since he wants to reserve as much time as possible in order to share a moment or two with each of you personally. That might be difficult, but MIKE always thinks big.

In remembering Jeanne I'm sure my thoughts will mirror many of yours since Jeanne was pretty much the same person no matter who she was with. She was comfortable in her own skin, so to speak, and never tried to be anyone but herself . . . and although MIKE casts a big shadow, both literally and figuratively, Jeanne was never overshadowed. She had her own life plan, developed her own career and went about it in her own unassuming but resolute manner.

I remember Jeanne as one of those rare individuals who knew early on what she wanted in life and set about achieving them in her own quiet and measured way . . . I think that all she really wanted was to marry MIKE, teach little kids and have a comfortable home where she could raise a family. She achieved all that, and I don't think she ever needed nor wanted anything more.

I first got to know Jeanne when she began dating MIKE over 40 years ago. We were all young then if that could be imagined. She was a 19-year-old freshman at SJS majoring in teaching.

She adored MIKE. As a brother, I couldn't see it, but, eventually, even I had to admit that Jeanne was a good judge of character. They were well suited to each other. They had a loving and playful relationship, they filled each other's voids, and their separate strengths—she being introverted, disciplined and structured and MIKE being extroverted, spontaneous and hardly a slave to the clock—rather than being incompatible, they dovetailed perfectly and like fine joinery their union was strong and enduring.

Now I have to say here that I'm younger than MIKE—I try to point this out every chance I get—being the more youthful is one of the few things I have over him. He's got me in most every other area—especially in that full head of hair. Anyway, I got married first—I don't know if that had anything to do with it, but one evening shortly after I got married, Jeanne visited Yoshiko and me at our little duplex apartment, and being MIKE's brother, she wondered if I had any insights into his intentions as far as their future was concerned. Well, hoping to reassure her but not wanting to commit MIKE to anything that he wasn't ready for, I told Jeanne that when MIKE was ready to settle down, it wouldn't be with anyone but her. I told her that I thought it might be soon. She seemed OK with this, but a couple of months later there goes MIKE, along with my credibility, joining the Peace Corps, and off to the jungles of El Salvador he went for the next 2 years.

So things didn't always come easy for Jeanne, but resolute as always, she simply turned her full attention to her studies, finished school and got a job teaching kindergarten in the little town of Agnew and waited for MIKE to come home. Two years passed and MIKE, or someone that looked vaguely like MIKE, finally came home—all 130 pounds of him—imagine a dark-skinned pumpkin-on-a-stick and you'll get the picture. He also morphed into an Asian Desi Arnaz speaking fluent Spanish and singing Latin love songs to his fiancée. But of

course to Jeanne he was the same MIKE and they married that following June of 1967; and with her home cooking and TLC, Jeanne got MIKE back up to his fighting weight and then some. I think, though, that she deferred to MIKE when it came to making the menudo. I'll let MIKE tell you about their belated honeymoon when he took Jeanne to visit El Salvador, deep in the heart of Central America—by the way, they didn't fly . . . they drove round-trip . . . in his Volkswagen beetle. Talk about a tough lady.

So just a month shy of turning 25, Jeanne had her man and she had her career. In a few short years she and MIKE moved into their first and only home where she raised two kids and a German shepherd named Orejas. Jeanne was a full-time Mom by then and under her ever present guidance, Mark and Michelle grew into adulthood, graduated from college, married and embarked on successful careers of their own—and to Jeanne's delight—one grandchild on its way. Once the heavy-lifting part of motherhood was completed, Jeanne returned to her other kids, this time at Baldwin School in the Oakgrove School District. I think she achingly missed her school kids as well as her colleagues this past year—the obvious became clear to me that school was a very big part of Jeanne's life.

Just a brief mention about Jeanne's values . . . Anyone who knows her would agree that she had solid June Cleaver values and a kind of childlike innocence, but she also possessed common sense wisdom and carried a kind of moral authority about her that was both subtle and understated—and not at all preachy or controlling. It was evident in her conduct and sometimes, as I've experienced on occasion, in just a look or a well-timed comment or two.

I think MIKE would be the first to agree that he owes much of his success to Jeanne. The constancy and stability she provided helped him stay the course in a hectic public life that often overlapped into their private lives, something that Jeanne had long ago adapted to and accommodated with grace. But the title of Honorable didn't exist at home. Over the years, Jeanne kept MIKE grounded in her gently assertive way. Her moral compass always pointed north and whenever MIKE needed to check his bearings he never needed to look any further than his partner. Jeanne will always remain in his thoughts—one could be certain of that.

Although Jeanne was very much a part of our family for all these years, she never stopped being a Yoshida. She continued to be a source of strength and a source of support to her mother, Rose Yoshida, who had been so extremely proud of her eldest and only daughter . . . and she never stopped being a big sister to her brothers, Stanley and Dick, whom she remained devoted to.

Brother Dick and daughter Michelle were Jeanne's primary care givers over this past year—joined of course by MIKE, who rushed home when she took a turn for the worse, and son Mark and his bride Mekar who both made repeated trips from LA, and not least of all Jeanne's son-in-law, Travis Phillips, who shuttled back and forth from Seattle.

In the end Jeanne was surrounded by her family and by an abiding love that had its genesis in that 19 year-old freshman who began dating MIKE over 42 years ago. In a very real sense Jeanne's life had come full circle. She wanted to go on of course and she fought the

good fight, devoid of self-pity and with extraordinary courage and a stubborn optimism. But Jeanne prevailed long before the events of the past year, because she had attained the only things that were important to her. Those life accomplishments, and the values that she instilled, will live on.

You did good, Jeanne. I know I speak for everyone here, family and friends, when I say thank you, Jeanne. Thank you for being part of our lives. We're all the better for it."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Jeanne Yoshida Honda and in extending our deepest sympathies to her beloved husband, our colleague, Congressman MIKE HONDA, their children and their entire family.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American Legacy Foundation as they celebrate their 5th Anniversary. Founded on March 4, 1999 as a result of the historic Master Settlement Agreement between the attorneys general of 40 states and the tobacco industry, the foundation is committed to building a world where young people reject tobacco and anyone can quit.

Thanks to the American Legacy Foundation and other life-saving organizations that work every day to prevent our young people from starting to smoke and help those already addicted to successfully quit, youth smoking prevalence in the U.S. has hit its lowest level in nearly three decades.

The American Legacy Foundation is best known for its award winning truth® youth counter marketing campaign. With its blunt messaging and frank approach, truth® has been cited as one of the reasons behind sharp declines in youth tobacco use. The foundation's programs also extend beyond youth. Circle of Friends creates circles of support around women who want to quit; Great Start helps provide information and counseling to pregnant women about the risks of tobacco use during pregnancy and the earliest days of a baby's life; and the foundation's Priority Populations Program focuses on minorities and other groups that are disproportionately harmed by tobacco use.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in celebrating five years of accomplishment by the American Legacy Foundation and hope that you will work with me to ensure that organizations like the Legacy Foundation are able to continue their critical work to protect our nation from tobacco's deadly toll.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA AND BAUDELIO FLORES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Baudelio